

What is claimed is:

1. A method of calibrating a printing system suitable for forming an output image representative of an input image, said method comprising:

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forming and printing an output image on a support sheet;

detecting an image quality parameter within a predetermined area of the output image;

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automatically controlling a process station in the printing system as a function of the image quality parameter determined in said detecting step.

15 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the image quality parameter comprises the color coordinates of the output image.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the color coordinates in the output image are detected using a spectrophotometer.

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4. The method of claim 3, wherein the spectrophotometer senses a range of color coordinates in the output image.

25 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the process station comprises a look-up table for determining a color toner formula.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the step of controlling includes modifying an entry of the look-up table.

30 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of forming an output image further comprises selecting a predetermined area to be detected.

8. The method of claim 7, further comprising a step of moving a sensor to the predetermined area of the output image.

5 9. A process control system for calibrating a printing system comprising:

an image forming system for forming a developed image;

a support sheet for receiving the developed image to form an output image  
10 representative of an input image;

an image quality sensor for measuring an image quality parameter of the output image on the support sheet and generating a signal representative of said image quality parameter.

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10. The system of claim 9, further comprising an image controller for calibrating a process station as a function of the signal generated by the image quality sensor.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein the sensor comprises a spectrophotometer for  
20 measuring color coordinates in the output image.

12. The system of claim 10, wherein the sensor is movable along a predetermined path.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein the image controller directs the sensor to a  
25 plurality of positions along the predetermined path so as to measure a range of image quality parameters.

14. The system of claim 11, wherein the process station comprises a look-up table for determining a color toner formula.

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15. The system of claim 14, wherein the controller modifies an entry of the look-up table to comprise a new color toner formula.

16. The system of claim 10, wherein the sensor comprises a gloss-meter for measuring  
5 glossiness in the developed image.

17. A process control system for calibrating a printing system suitable for forming an output image representative of an input image comprising:

10 a movable image quality sensor for measuring an image quality parameter in an image.

18. The process control system of claim 17 further comprising an image processor for decomposing an input image and producing output data for rendering an output image  
15 by a print engine.

19. The process control system of claim 17, wherein the image processor controls the movement of the sensor.

20. The system of claim 19, wherein the image processor moves the sensor along a predetermined path so as to determine a range of color coordinates in the output image.